U.S.F.W.S. PERIODICAL
Fishery Leaflet
#336

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

July - September 1961

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service - Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

Cold-storage holdings of edible fishery products June 1, '61 = 139.7 mil. lbs.; June 1, '60 = 130.7 mil. lbs.; June 1, '59 = 147.1 mil. lbs. Inventories of haddock, fish sticks and portions, salmon, fresh-water fish, and most shellfish were larger on June 1, '61 than year earlier. Other major species were generally in lower supply.

Imports Jan.-April '61 were higher than last year for many species. However, receipts of canned light meat tuna, canned salmon, northern lobsters, and fresh-water fish were lower. Continued high imports expected this quarter.

Exports Jan.-April '61 were generally lower than year earlier period. Considerable increases, however, in shipments of canned mackerel, canned salmon, and fish oil.

Wholesale price index for all edible fishery products in May '61 up 1.5% from year earlier. Canned pink salmon prices increased 14.3% and canned California sardines were up 11.8%.

Fish meal and scrap production thru April '61 = 13.7 thous. tons, 15% below same period '60. Marine animal oil yield Jan.-April '61 = 601.3 thous. gals., a gain of 13% compared with the same period a year earlier.

Shrimp (fresh, frozen, canned) will be listed nationally on the August Plentiful Food List issued by the Department of Agriculture. Shrimp holdings June 1, '61 were 35% higher than last year.

International Conference on Fish in Nutrition to be held in Washington, D. C., September 19-27, 1961. Fifty nations will be represented by approximately 400 delegates. The agenda includes such main topics as the role of fish in world nutrition, chemical composition of fish and fishery products, fishery products in animal nutrition, and possibilities for increasing fish consumption.

FAO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FISH IN NUTRITION
WASHINGTON, D.C. SEPTEMBER 19-27, 1961

Salt-water Fish

FISH STICKS & PORTIONS -----
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Fish stick prod. first quarter '61 = 20.3 mil. lbs., 2% higher than Jan.-March '60. Fish portion prod. same period = 14.9 mil. lbs., up 28%. Combined holdings June 1, '61 = 8.2 mil. lbs., 19% above last year. Prices steady.

FLOUNDER & SOLE FILLETS --
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Holdings June 1, '61 = 3.5 mil. lbs., about same as last year. Landings thru April '61 = 15 mil. lbs., 17% higher than same date '60. Production will reach peak in third quarter.

COD FILLETS ----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Holdings June 1, '61 = 7.1 mil. lbs., almost 6% lower than '60. Imports thru April '61 = 10.6 mil. lbs., 8% below same period '60. Landings should taper off in third quarter.

HADDOCK FILLETS----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Landings should continue heavy in third quarter. Holdings June 1, '61 = 10.9 mil. lbs., 44% higher than last year. Imports thru April '61 = 12.7 mil. lbs., 22% above same period '60. Prices higher than last year, should level off this quarter.

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS ------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Holdings June 1, '61 = 5.1 mil. lbs., 28% lower than year earlier. Landings thru April 24% higher than in '60, but will level off during third quarter. Imports thru April about 11% lower than last year. Prices should remain steady.

HALIBUT----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Landings thru May '61, all areas = 21.4 mil. lbs., compared with 26.0 mil. lbs. thru May '60. Result of fewer fishing days in '61. Prices will probably remain firm. Holdings June 1, '61 = 10.2 mil. lbs., 27% lower than '60.

MACKEREL, CANNED---------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Moderate

Pack of Pacific and Jack mackerel = 288,000 std. cases thru May '61, 22% lower than same period '60. Landings of mackerel should be moderate during third quarter. Prices steady.

SALMON, CANNED ----------
Market - Firm
Supplies - Light
Demand - Good

Early new pack reports show '61 slightly ahead of '60. Exports thru April '61 = 3.6 mil. lbs., 71% higher than '60. Imports thru April '61 = 1.4 mil. lbs., a 87% decrease from same period '60. Prices will continue high.

SARDINES, CALIFORNIA-------
Market - Firm
Supplies - Light
Demand - Active

Season begins Aug. 1. New law allows fishing for sardines thru Feb. instead of Dec. Prices expected to remain firm. Very light supplies in third quarter. Exports thru April '61 dropped 62% from '60. Imports same period sardines not-in-oil up 24%.

SARDINES, MAINE ----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Moderate

Maine sardine canning season is delayed this year because of very late run of fish. Latest in ten years. Prices will advance because of increased production costs.

TUNA, CANNED ----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Calif. pack Jan.-May '61 = 4.5 mil. std. cases, about 92,000 cases more than '60. Frozen imports thru April '61 = 70.2 mil. pounds, 8% higher than '60 period. Imports canned tuna and bonito Jan.-April '61 = 975,000 cases; same period '60 = 920,000 cases.

Shellfish

CRAB MEAT----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Production of hard crabs will reach peak during third quarter along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Holdings June 1, '61 = 2.7 mil. lbs., 30% higher than '60. Price decline expected during quarter. Canned crab meat imports thru April '61 = 1.2 mil. lbs., about same as '60.

LOBSTERS----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Maine landings thru March '61 = 1.5 mil. lbs., 7% below '60. Third quarter peak for Maine lobsters. Imports from Canada should decline in third quarter. Holdings spiny lobsters June 1 = 5.9 mil. lbs., 45% higher than year earlier.

SCALLOPS, SEA ----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Liberal
Demand - Good

Landings thru April '61 = 5.6 mil. lbs., thru April '60 = 5.5 mil. lbs. High landings expected in third quarter. Holdings = 1.5 mil. lbs. June 1, 38% below last year. Imports = 1.5 mil. lbs., April '61, thru same period '60 = 1.2 mil. lbs. Prices slightly weaker.

SHRIMP ----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Liberal
Demand - Good

Landings thru May '61 = 22.2 mil. lbs., about 9% below same period '60. Holdings = 33.8 mil. lbs., June 1, '61 compared with 24.9 mil. lbs. same date '60. Imports will continue high. Thru April '61 shrimp imports were 40.8 mil. lbs., 25% higher than year earlier. Prices should remain steady.

Industrial Products

FISH OIL----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Liberal
Demand - Good

Production thru April '61 = 601 thousand gals., about 13% more than '60. Exports first four months '61 = 44 mil. lbs., 26% higher than year earlier because of Norwegian herring fishery failure. Probable price decline this quarter.

FISH MEAL ----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Light-to-Moderate
Demand - Good

Production thru April '61 = 13.7 thous. tons, 15% below '60. Prices have firmed but should remain steady this quarter. Imports thru April '61 = 63.4 thous. tons, 39% higher than last year. Peru supplied 71% of total imports.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Industrial production increased further in May. Construction activity also increased. Employment and income continued to rise. Retail sales advanced.

Production of materials has risen 8% and final products 4% since February. Output of final products, both consumer goods and equipment, close to previous highs.

New construction activity increased 2% in May. Public activity rose 4%, reflecting substantial increase in highway construction, private work increased slightly further.

Employment in nonfarm establishments rose further in May, but was still 700,000 below pre-recession high of July '60. Gains were large in steel, fabricated metals, and auto industries. Weekly earnings were slightly higher because of increase in average factory workweek.

Retail sales rose 1% in May but were 2% below the year-earlier rate. Sales of autos accounted for most of the rise.

THE FOOD SITUATION

Supplies of food this summer are expected to be as plentiful as last year with civilian demand continuing at a high level. Prices probably will average a little above a year earlier.

Meat - Production expected to decline seasonally next few months. However, beef production up with forecast for '61 per capita consumption of 85.2 lbs. Hog slaughter this quarter will exceed year earlier rate. Lamb and mutton less plentiful throughout remainder of year.

Poultry and Eggs - Slaughter of broilers is substantially above last year. The '61 turkey crop will exceed record production last year of 85 million birds. Larger egg production is expected in last half of '61 than in same '60 period. Prospects of large supplies are keeping egg prices low.

Dairy Products - Milk production is expected to exceed last year's 122.9 billion lbs. Prices to consumers for milk and dairy products expected to be slightly higher than in '60. Civilian consumption of dairy products in '61 is expected to equal the 653 pounds (milk equivalent) per capita rate of '60.

Fats and Oils - Retail prices of most food fats and oils probably will average slightly higher than '60. Last year, prices were lowest in a decade. Civilian per capita use of food fats and oils for '61 will be slightly higher than the 45.5 pounds last year. Butter use probably no higher than record low in '60. Margarine use expected to hit new peak.

HAWAII AREA
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BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

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